



Discovering our history, Preserving our past, Sharing our stories.



Help the Museum celebrate four decades with a fun birthday party-themed evening!

Enjoy the evening one of two ways: in-person or online. In-person includes dinner and drinks. Both versions feature a live auction, raffle, Fund-the-Need and the Farwell T. Brown and History Maker awards.

In-person at Prairie Moon Winery:

Social hour at 5:30pm; Dinner and program at 6:30pm

\$65 per person; registration ends August 16

Register online at www.ameshistory.org/Party

Online participants can register until 4 pm, August 26.

Donation appreciated from online participants.

2021 Ames History Maker Award

Ted Tedesco and the Sargent Family

2021 Farwell T. Brown Award

Eric Wierson and Rollie & Willie Struss

How It Will Work

The online auction will run August 16–26 at www.AmesHistory.org/Party, with final bids occurring August 27, the night of the in-person party. The top bids through August 26 will become the starting bid at the party on the 27th.

At the party, items that were online will be part of both a silent auction and the live auction.

Those attending online can designate a staff or committee member to bid for them at the party.

And, raffle tickets may be purchased in advance starting August 16; you'll be able to designate on which items you'd like to place your tickets.

For those attending the online party, you can:

- donate to the Fund-the-Need online
- view award videos online
- watch a livestream of the event

Auction online on August 16-26

Auction and raffle items include:

Iowa State Basketball Ticket Package; BBQ Smoked Rib Dinner Party; Genealogy or History Research; Dinner at a Des Moines River cabin; An Afternoon at the Train Farm; Rental of Cellar 626; Valerie Williams Private Dance Lessons; Artwork by Local Artists; Seasonal Bouquets; Plant with Decorative Planter; Wine, Beer or Whiskey Tasting; Gift Baskets and Gift Cards to Local Businesses including Burgie's Coffee, Chocolaterie Stam, Cooks' Emporium, Gilger Designs; Giraffe Girl Concierge & Errands; Ignite Yoga; Ria Keinert Massage; Mel's Sweet Occasions; Prairie Moon Winery; The Pumpkin Patch; ISU Football Ticket Package.

Fund the Need

The staff has identified key items of need for the Museum – such as archival boxes and tools and equipment. Benefit attendees will have an opportunity to designate a donation for one of these specific items.

Benefit Party Sponsors

Our very grateful thanks go to the following:

PLATINUM: Brian L. and Elaine S. Anderson

GOLD: Ames Chamber of Commerce; Ames High School Alumni Association; Bankers Trust; Gloria Betcher and Doug Biggs; Phyllis Crouse; Burgie's Coffee & Fine Tea; First National Bank; Friedrich Iowa Realty; H.L. Munn Lumber Co.; Grandon Funeral and Cremation Care; Holmes Murphy; Hunziker and Companies; Knapp Tedesco Insurance; Nelson Electric; NorthCrest Community; Nyemaster Goode, PC; Prints Copy Center; Sigler; Speck Plumbing, Inc.; Janet and Gary Thompson; Wilson Toyota

SILVER: Mary Greeley Medical Center; Candy and Steve Schainker

Museum Open Hours



Open hours at the Museum are Tuesday - Friday, 1 to 4 pm or anytime by appointment. Masks are requested and space arrangements allow room to distance.

In the museum's hallway are several smaller exhibits including the **African-American Experience in World War I**, **Resource Recovery Plant**, **125 Years of Public Power in Ames** and **Women in Science**.

"Groundbreaking" Exhibit, Part 2

A Woman's Place is Everywhere: Groundbreaking Women in Ames History tells the story of local women who stepped out of their expected roles to have a unique impact in the community. The exhibit is a four-part series honoring women who broke barriers in science, business, activism and government. They can be seen in the museum's Douglas Avenue windows. The second part now on view through September 30 features **women in government**. Part 1 on women in science has been moved indoors. All four parts will be available to travel when their runs are complete.

Pantorium Purchase

Members received a letter with the news about the Museum's purchase of the building immediately adjoining our facility to the south – the historic Pantorium, a former dry cleaning establishment. The offer by the owner was unexpected but it created a unique opportunity.



The purchase is a positive step toward addressing the Museum's most pressing space needs, a process that began about three years ago with many focus groups and meetings with key members of the community. We are

"back to the drawing board" as we re-think the initial plans for an expansion. Many details will need to be resolved – but we will keep our members informed as plans become more firm. Let us know if you have questions – or ideas!

Support through Memberships

Effective January 1, 2022, some of the Museum membership rates will increase. The museum's Board of Directors looked at comparable membership levels at other organizations and - considering that rates have not increased since 2014 - decided it was time for a modest adjustment.

The good news is you may extend your membership, regardless of your renewal date, by renewing your membership this calendar year. Renewal dates are printed on the address label of your newsletter.

Rates on January 1 will be:

Introductory \$25	Friend \$50
Sustaining \$120	Partner \$250
Benefactor \$500	Patron \$1,000
Business Supporting \$100	Business Executive \$500

We truly appreciate your continued patronage as we move into a new era with the purchase of the Ames Pantorium building. Funds from your memberships are a key portion of the annual budget that make it possible for us to continue to preserve and share Ames history.

Let's Talk Pantorium

By Sharon Wirth, AHM Board member

Building Purchase

By the time this newsletter reaches you, the Ames History Museum (AHM) will have completed the purchase of the historic Ames Pantorium-Kooker Building at 410 Douglas Avenue.



Board President, Lynette Spicer, signs purchase documents

This building is next door to where the Museum is currently located. The Museum's board and staff are very excited about expanding into this space. The original terrazzo floor and high tin ceiling will provide a beautiful backdrop for Museum activities.

Previous owners, Dennis and Cindy Jones, began working on the building after purchasing it in 2010. The Museum will complete the restoration as a part of the project that will combine the Pantorium and our existing building at 416 Douglas. Currently, planning is underway to determine the best usage of the Pantorium space for Museum purposes. Stay tuned for further details!

What's in a Name?

The business name, 'Pantorium,' is a combination of English and Latin languages that means 'pant cleaning.' Ed Kooker operated a dry-cleaning business at this location until selling the business in 1945. The unusual name has become very memorable because of the large vertical signage on the second story of the building, (pictured right).

The Milepost newspaper of December 9, 1937, reported that at the City Council session on Dec. 6

"an application was granted for a neon sign, 13 ½ feet high, weighing 300 pounds at the Ames Pantorium and Bungalow Tea Room." At that time the tea room occupied the second floor of the building. The signage will be retained and the Museum hopes to electrify it once again.

Pantorium Significance

The building was completed in 1926, the first of several downtown buildings started in 1925. Its historic significance comes from drawing attention to the replacement of Victorian buildings on Douglas Avenue with new buildings demonstrating the booming Ames economy of the time. The architectural firm of Kimball, Bailie and Cowgill designed the Pantorium and a number of other buildings in Ames.

A. H. Kimball was the founding head (1915) of the Architectural Engineering and Rural Structures Department at then Iowa State College. He served as department head until his death in 1946. R. M. Bailie and C. H. Cowgill were also on the Iowa State College faculty for several years.

In stark contrast to Victorian buildings, the architecture of the Pantorium reflects the forward-looking design of commercial buildings developing at the time in



downtown Ames. This new trend was characterized by simplified, efficient, utilitarian facades driven by conservative, no-nonsense business leaders, according to public historian William Page. These buildings used a variety of brick coloration and surface texture often with cast concrete detailing.

As a key structure in the Ames downtown's National Register historic district, the Pantorium building breaks the tradition of colored brick with the rare use of glazed brick and a design more complex than much of Ames' commercial architecture.

The creamy-colored storefront includes contrasting glazed brick, terra cotta cornice with dentil work and a parapet capped with cast concrete coping. Between the first and second floors there are three panels

defined by contrasting glazed brick. The façade is framed by this same contrasting brick.

The Pantorium Business

Located earlier on Duff Avenue and on Main Street, the business was moved to the 410 Douglas location when the newly constructed building was opened in April of 1926. Edward M. Kooker was the business and building owner.

When the building opened, the second floor was leased to the Ames American Legion Post. The building was recognized as providing "modern facilities equal to those anywhere in Iowa" (*Ames Daily Tribune and Times*, 4/14/26). The location brought together under one roof, the office, sorting rooms and cleaning plant. Complete rug cleaning equipment was in the basement.

The Pantorium business began at least by 1905, perhaps earlier (early documentation is sometimes murky). The peak dry-cleaning period ended shortly after World War II. Popular wash-and-wear clothing, polyester and double knits reduced the need for dry cleaning. After becoming a pick-up location for clothes cleaned elsewhere, the Pantorium business closed in 2010. KHOI radio opened at this location in 2011.

The Future

Ames History Museum is honored to be entrusted with the stewardship of this historic building. AHM is currently engaged in developing details as to how the building can be used to meet our growing space needs. Additional details for space usage, plans for rehabilitation and capital fundraising will be shared in the fall. Member input and comments are welcome.



This image from 1954 shows the Pantorium when it sat next to the former Ames Hotel, a converted residence.

Museum News

Announcing Our Next Exhibit: Black Trailblazers

"Black Trailblazers" explores the legacies of nine Black pioneers in Ames history – Jack Trice, George Washington Carver, Walter Madison, John and Nellie Shipp, Willa Juanita Ewing, James Herman Banning and Archie and Nancy Martin. Step inside a replica of Banning's "Miss Ames" airplane, view crayon portraits of the Martins and learn more about each of these remarkable individuals whose contributions reach far beyond Ames. Opens September 1.



Museum staffer, Alex Fejfar, constructs Banning's plane wing segment for the Trailblazers exhibit.

Members After Hours is August 31

Our first members-only social event in many months will take place **Tuesday, August 31, 4 to 6 pm**. We hope to see you at the Museum!

Preview AHM's new exhibit, "Black Trailblazers" before it opens to the public, visit with other Ames History Museum members and enjoy light refreshments.

Virtual Tours

During the pandemic, staff created virtual tours of specific Ames historic sites. They launch from our website and include: locations related to the women featured in the "Women in Science" exhibit, History and Change in Campustown, Tour of Ames Locations with a Carver Connection, Hometown Teams: How Sports Shaped Ames and a Hoggatt School Tour. Images are tagged with plenty of information – tours you can take from the comfort of your home!

Introducing Board Members

Board members of non-profit organizations provide vital leadership and support. We'd like to let you know more about the dynamic volunteers who make up the Museum's Board of Directors.

PETER HALLOCK is in his second term on the board of the Ames History Museum and currently serves as secretary. Peter is retired from the Iowa Department of Transportation, where he served primarily in the public transit program. He moved to Ames at the end of 2007, when the DOT relocated his job from Des Moines to Ames. He purchased a house

**Quickly
became
interested**

in the Old Town Historic District and quickly became interested in early Ames history. He initially did research on John and Rowena Stevens and gave a presentation as part of the museum's monthly lecture series. Since then, he has taught an Early Ames History course for the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) program sponsored by the ISU Alumni Association, and has another course in preparation for winter 2022. He serves on the museum's Hoggatt School Committee, Finance Committee and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Work Group.

DON BEITZ has been a member of the Board of Directors of the Ames History Museum since 2012. He was raised on an Illinois Guernsey dairy farm where he developed an intense interest in dairy science as well as Cardinal baseball. He earned B.S., M.S. and PhD degrees from the University of Illinois and Michigan State University. In 1967, he joined the Animal Science and Biochemistry faculties at Iowa State University where he is now Charles F. Curtiss Distinguished Professor of Agriculture. He teaches biochemistry classes and advises agricultural biochemistry students. His research has focused on milk fever and ketosis, beef tenderness, mitochondrial DNA and dietary control of milk fat, body composition and plasma cholesterol. He has directed 104 advanced degree programs. He and wife Judy have two children, five grandchildren, and three great grandchildren.

**Involved
since
2012**

BOB BOURNE has been involved in studying history since grade school and spent most of his time in grade school and high school watching the Illinois Central and Rock Island trains from his classrooms. His

primary interest is transportation history. He moved to Ames in 1981 to become the Transit Director for CyRide and developed the bus service in Ames during his 25-year career. Currently, he is a transit consultant specializing in small urban, rural and tribal transit service. He visited frequently with Farwell T. Brown in the 1990s as Farwell was researching transportation history in Ames. Bob researched Dinkey, streetcar, interurban and bus history in Ames through a variety of sources. He is an avid supporter of AHM and has been a board member since 2009. He is also involved in the James H. Andrew Museum and History Center at the Boone and Scenic Valley Railroad.

**An avid
supporter**

2021 Lecture Series Recordings

The 2021 lectures have been recorded and are available on the Museum's YouTube channel, along with many previous presentations:

**FIRST LADIES: MORE THAN THE WOMEN
BEHIND THE MEN,** *By Diana Carlin*

**FOUNDATIONS FOR ONE COMMUNITY: THE
HISTORY OF PEOPLE OF COLOR IN AMES,
EARLIEST TIMES TO 1940,** *By Gloria Betcher*

PROHIBITION IN IOWA, *By Linda McCann*

STEAMLINERS ACROSS IOWA, *By Bob Bourne*

**SECESSIONITUS IN WEST AMES: THE 4TH WARD
'INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT,' 1914-1920**
By Douglas Biggs

**ADDED HISTORY TALK - A PASSION FOR
PRAIRIES: THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF ADA
HAYDEN,** *By Deb Lewis*

Footnote: As a continuation of her work for the "Foundations" lecture, Gloria Betcher is heading a project team of researchers for Iowa State University's *Tracing Race* initiative - 'Mapping the Black Iowa State College Student Housing Experience up to 1940.'

Footnote #2: In June, the nation's first association dedicated to the study of the evolving roles and history of America's first ladies was announced by American University's School of Public Affairs: First Ladies Association for Research and Education (FLARE). Its website - www.FLARE-net.org - provides a wealth of information about these remarkable women.

Annual Awards: F.T. Brown

An annual feature of our Benefit event is presenting the **Farwell T. Brown** and **History Maker Awards**. The **Farwell T. Brown Award** for exceptional service will be presented to three individuals this year.

ERIC WIERSON first volunteered for the Ames History Museum at the gift shop table during the Sesquicentennial 4th of July weekend in 2014. He responded to the Museum's call for extra volunteers to staff the various activities on that weekend.

He began volunteering more regularly at the Museum's front desk in the fall of 2014. He enjoyed the work and pretty soon picked up more and more shifts until he was volunteering on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays every week. Always willing to help with whatever needed to be done, he often stopped by on Tuesdays and Wednesdays to see if staff needed help with any projects.

In addition to his dedicated front desk work, Eric shoveled snow in the parking lot, made sure the Museum was clean and tidy for visitors, set up for events, helped with filing, transcribed books and postcards, helped with collections cataloging and lent his "schlepping" skills for moving heavy collections objects and installing exhibits.



At the front desk, Eric always had a friendly greeting for visitors. During his years with the organization, he acquired a vast knowledge of Ames history and local resources. Eric was great at

engaging all visitors. He often asked genuine, curious questions and really cared about what people shared. He reached 5,000 volunteer hours at the Museum in February 2020 (pictured above at that time with his giant cookie award).

Eric was diagnosed with leukemia in the summer of 2020 and passed away on March 31, 2021. His presence is truly missed by Museum staff, visitors and other volunteers. He was enthusiastic, caring, dedicated and always willing to help, providing truly exceptional service to the Museum.

WILLIE AND ROLLIE STRUSS joined the board of the Ames Heritage Association, now Ames History Museum in 1995. Rollie was on the committee to create the Story Center demonstration museum that operated from 1999 to 2001. Willie managed the organization's membership and served as board secretary.

They led the efforts to complete restoration of the Bauge family log cabin, a house museum depicting the rural life of Norwegian immigrants, 1890 to 1910. Rollie, who was known for his carpentry and handyman skills, led projects such as repairing the floors and ceiling, painting walls and re-chinking the exposed interior logs. Willie managed volunteers and created a docent training manual.

The Strusses rotated off the board in 2002, but continued to volunteer at the log cabin and on other projects. In 2002, they received the Ames Community Arts Council's Distinguished Board Member award.



In 2004, Willie and Rollie joined the site committee to look for a permanent home for an Ames museum. In 2007, the committee toured more than a dozen properties and that year,

416 Douglas Avenue was chosen. The organization rented space in the building and immediately entered into talks to purchase it.

In 2008, in the throes of the Great Recession, a committee, led by Rollie and Willie, began the Legacy Ames capital campaign to purchase the building. Later, Rollie wrote, "The year 2008 started out with about \$88,000 in the Building Fund. A group of individuals met in January to discuss the possibility of buying 416 Douglas, a downtown office building that was for sale. The pros and cons of taking such a big step were weighed. My impatience got the best of me and I said we should just bite the bullet and do it!"

Largely through the efforts of the Strusses, the Building Fund totaled \$428,000 by the end of 2008 and a purchase agreement was signed. The final payment was made on January 3, 2012. (*Contract burning, above*)

(continued from last page)

Willie and Rollie served on the board again from 2009 to 2012. During this time, they started the "Did You Know?" oral history project to capture stories about Ames history.

In 2011, Rollie and Willie received the Outstanding Individual Volunteer Fundraisers Award from Story County Alliance for Philanthropy for their leadership on the Legacy Ames campaign.

The nomination for that award included these words, "The Ames Historical Society would not be where it is today without the generosity and dedication of Willie and Rollie Struss. It's people like the Strusses that make a community special. The Strusses' leadership in the building fund campaign made all the difference and today, the organization owns the first building dedicated to local history since the founding of Ames."

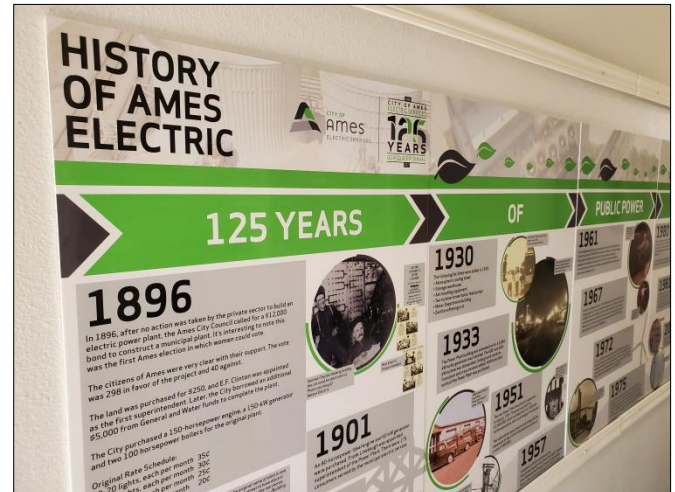
Rollie passed away on August 17, 2012 after battling cancer.

Rollie and Willie were an inseparable and wonderful team with a steadfast vision for a permanent museum for Ames.

Cameron: Lifetime Achievement

The Museum is a member of the Ames Community Arts Council which annually recognizes individuals and organizations in the community's cultural life. The Lifetime Achievement Award is given to a person who has demonstrated a lifelong commitment to the arts in Ames by freely sharing their outstanding talents and making a significant impact on the community.

The Museum's treasurer, **KEN CAMERON** received the 2021 award. Ken has been on the Board since 2004, shortly after his retirement from the DOT where he served as an auditor. It wasn't long before he put his skills to work and took on the role of treasurer. At that time, the organization was beginning to grow and Ken's experience working with financial statements and formal and detailed reports allowed him to provide important information about the organization's finances. Ken comes in several times a week to pay bills, make deposits, create reports and work with the budget committee. In addition to these important tasks, Ken also assists with the "heavy lifting" (literally), moving collections and equipment when needed. He is also a welcoming presence at member and public events. So well deserved, Ken, congratulations!



Powerful 125 Years

The Ames Electric Utility marks its 125th Anniversary this year. An extensive exhibit in the Museum's hallway lays out the facts of its remarkable history.



Hoggatt Produces Smiles

The summer activities and open hours at Hoggatt School are finished but they were greatly enjoyed by all who visited. Due the re-emergence of Covid, the school will be closed for the remainder of the season - but the online Virtual Tour will take you there safely! Link to it on our website.

Ames History Museum
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Ames History Museum Board:

President: Lynette Spicer Vice-President: Bob Bourne
Secretary: Peter Hallock Treasurer: Ken Cameron
Don Beitz, Wayne Clinton, Becky Jordan, Chris Nelson, Kate Orngard,
Ryan Riley, Tracey Stoll, Sharon Wirth. Monthly Board meetings are
virtual on the 3rd Thursday at 7 pm. Members Welcome!

Museum Staff: Executive Director: Casie Vance

Research/Exhibits Manager: Alex Fejfar

Collections Manager: Madeline Mongar-Brodie

Emeritus Staff: Alan Spohnheimer, Margaret Vance, Dennis Wendell

The Ames History Museum is an incorporated, 501c3 not-for-profit organization whose mission is to engage our diverse public and provide unique opportunities to learn about Ames history.

Museum: 416 Douglas, Ames, IA 50010 Hours: Tue-Fri, 1-4 pm/by appt.

Mail: PO Box 821, Ames, IA 50010 Phone: 515-232-2148

E-mail: info@ameshistory.org Website: www.AmesHistory.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ameshistory

Search 'Ames History Museum' on Instagram and YouTube

The newsletter is published four times a year for Museum members. Direct comments and questions to: Editor, PO Box 821, Ames, IA 50010 or email info@ameshistory.org. Editor: Kathy Svec

Hoggatt School is located on the grounds of Meeker School at 18th and Burnett, Ames, IA. Closed the rest of 2021 due to resurgence of Covid.



Happy at Hoggatt School!

Is it time to renew your membership?

Renewals are due on the one-year anniversary of last year's payment. Check this newsletter's label (above your name) for the date yours is due. Memberships fund the day-to-day operations of the Museum, so we can continue to be a valued community resource. Now – pay online on our website!

Introductory (1st year): \$25

Friend: \$50

Sustaining: \$120

Partner: \$250

Benefactor: \$500

Patron: \$1,000

Business Supporting: \$100

Business Executive: \$500

Name _____

Address _____

Ames History Museum, PO Box 821, Ames, IA 50010